

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 1997-494-C - ORDER NO. 2004-187

APRIL 12, 2004

IN RE:	Application of Georgia National Acceptance Corp. d/b/a First Tel for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Intrastate Resold Interexchange Telecommunications Services within the State of South Carolina.	)	ORDER CANCELLING CERTIFICATE
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the Commission Staff’s (“Staff”) request to cancel the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“PC&N”) of Georgia National Acceptance Corp. d/b/a First Tel (“First Tel” or the “Company”) to provide intrastate resold interexchange telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina. A review of the docket file reveals that the Commission granted First Tel authority to operate as a reseller of intrastate interexchange telecommunications services within the State of South Carolina by Order No. 98-206, dated March 18, 1998.

Pursuant to the Commission’s Rules and Regulations, each utility operating in the state shall file an annual financial information report with the Commission by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. First Tel filed its “Annual Report for Interexchange Companies” with the Commission for the twelve months ending December 31, 2003. On its Annual Report, First Tel denotes that the Company is inactive, and the Report reflects that there was no activity or operations of the Company for the twelve months ending December 31, 2003.

As First Tel, by the Company's Annual Report, indicates that First Tel is no longer in operation, the Staff requests that First Tel's Certificate of PC&N be cancelled. This matter was addressed at the Commission's weekly scheduled agenda meeting on March 30, 2004.

As additional verification of First Tel's termination of operations and to further warrant the Staff's request for cancellation of First Tel's Certificate, we would note that on April 1, 2002, a letter was filed by First Tel's accounting manager, requesting cancellation of the Company's Certificate. First Tel advised the Commission that the Company had not operated since March 31, 2001, when the customer base was sold and that no South Carolina customers were affected by the sale as the new owner took over servicing the accounts. The Commission's General Counsel then responded to First Tel's request by letter of May 8, 2002, and advised First Tel that it would be necessary for the Company to apply to the Commission for approval of the sale of customer base prior to cancellation of its Certificate. However, no action was taken by First Tel to obtain approval of the sale of customer base, and no additional correspondence was received from the Company until the present filing of its Annual Report for the twelve months ending December 31, 2003.

As First Tel, by the its own acknowledgement, is not providing the services for which the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity was granted, the Commission finds and concludes that First Tel's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide resold intrastate interexchange telecommunications services within the State of South Carolina should be cancelled. Although, First Tel did not obtain approval for

transfer and sale of the Company's customer base, we find that no adverse impact would be created for South Carolina consumers by cancellation of the Company's Certificate since First Tel no longer has customers in South Carolina.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate as a reseller of intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in South Carolina authorized by Order No. 98-206, dated March 18, 1998, issued in the instant docket to Georgia National Acceptance Corp. d/b/a First Tel is hereby cancelled.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

/s/  
Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/  
Bruce F. Duke, Executive Director

(SEAL)